



R/V Meteor
Cruise M168 (GPF 20-3_080)
08.11.2020 – 08.12.2020
Emden – Emden



1. Weekly report, 04. – 08.11.2020

Our trip started on November 4th somewhat unusually with the currently obligatory four-day quarantine in a hotel in Leer, where we still had a pleasant stay. After all of us had tested negative for COVID-19, we were taken by bus transfer to the research vessel Meteor in Emden yesterday and could go on board relieved. We were warmly welcomed by Captain Rainer Hammacher and the ship's crew. Besides the 32 crew members of the R/V Meteor, our scientific party comprises only 14 cruise participants, which is about half as many as usual due to the corona regulations.



Arrival at R/V Meteor in the port of Emden (by Fabian Hampel)

On today's Sunday, November 8th, the R/V Meteor left the port at 9 a.m. as scheduled. In bright sunshine we passed the lock and entered the North Sea. Now we are heading along the Dutch coast towards our working area in the eastern North Atlantic. The day has already been used for a safety drill on deck and we have also started to unpack our equipment.

Our expedition leads to the King's Trough about 700 km northeast of the Azores, a striking depression in the ocean floor, which is comparable in its dimensions to the well-known Grand Canyon in the USA. Our goal is to map this huge basin as well as the surrounding seamounts and the adjacent Azores-Biscay Rise and to recover magmatic rock samples in order to reconstruct the origin and geodynamic evolution of these structures.



On the way into the lock and further into the North Sea (by Antje Dürkefälden)



Safety drill on deck of the R/V Meteor (by Fabian Hampel)

We are looking forward to reaching our working area after the approximately five-day transit and getting our first rock samples on deck.

All cruise participants are doing well and send their best greetings to everybody at home!

Antje Dürkefälden and the scientific party of M168
(GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel)